

Appl. No. 10/048,081

Atty. Docket No. 7694X

Amdt. dated: 11/08/04

Amendment & Reply to the Office Action dated 07/06/04

REMARKS

The pending claims showing the amendment herein are represented above.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate delete 1, 6-hexanediol.

Support for this amendments is found, at a minimum, in the original claims.

Upon the entry of the amendments presented, Claims 1 and 6-14 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due. It is believed that these changes do not involve the introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 112

Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph for being indefinite with regards to the language "the operating window of the detergent tablet is broader with the hydrotrope." By the amendments herein, Claim 17 has been cancelled without prejudice. It is therefore submitted that this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

ART REJECTIONS

Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

a) Kahn

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kahn (U.S. 5,814,592). The Office Action argues that Kahn teaches a non-aqueous liquid detergent composition comprising particulate material, surfactants, elasticizing agents and solvents such as 1,6 hexanediol and that it would have been obvious to incorporate the materials of Kahn into a composition according to the present invention in order to realize the present invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as applied to the claims as amended herein.

Kahn relates to non-aqueous liquid heavy duty detergent compositions used for cleaning fabrics that contain structured, surfactant containing liquid phase formed of non-aqueous organic diluent and anionic surfactant-containing powder comprising non-surfactant salts and additional adjunct particulate material.

By the amendments herein, Claim 1 of the present invention has been amended to require that the composition be a liquid composition and comprise: a hydrotrope wherein the hydrotrope selected from 1, 4 Cyclo Hexane Di Methanol; 1,7 Heptanediol; and mixtures thereof, wherein the composition includes a surfactant in a sufficient concentration so that the surfactant forms a viscous phase upon dilution with water in absence of the hydrotrope; and wherein the composition

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comprises no quaternary compounds which are derivatives of any of the following: C16-18 unsaturated fatty acids, methyl diethanolamine or methyl chloride.

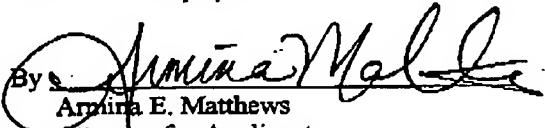
Kahn fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of the amended claims. Specifically, Kahn fails to teach or suggest a hydrotrope selected from 1, 4 Cyclo Hexane Di Methanol; 1,7 Heptanediol; and mixtures thereof. Additionally, one of ordinary skill in the art would find no motivation in Kahn to modify the Kahn compositions to realize the present invention.

Given the foregoing considerations, it is submitted that the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness and that Applicants' Claims, as amended herein, are not rendered unpatentably obvious by the teachings of Kahn. Accordingly, a rejection of the claims as amended herein, over Kahn under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is now improper and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place their application in proper form and to distinguish their invention from the applied prior art. WHEREFORE, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment presented, consideration of this application, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and allowance of Claims 1 and 6-14.

Respectfully submitted,
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